

Amendments

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1, 4 and 8; and add new claim 11.

1. (Twice Amended) A device for creating a spread-out stream of tobacco fibers, comprising:

C¹ a concave-curved guide track along which the fiber stream of tobacco fibers are conveyed, the guide track having a generatrix based on a uniform curve, a portion of the concave-curved guide track being formed by a convex sliding surface; and

at least one air nozzle having an air flow opening interrupting the guide track so that air existing the nozzle acts in a conveyance direction of the fiber stream for spreading out the tobacco fibers, wherein the nozzle has a downstream wall, in relation to the conveyance direction of the fiber stream, which makes a transition into the guide track in a steady convex curvature such that air exiting the nozzle achieves a Coanda effect.

C² 4. (Twice Amended) The device in accordance with claim 11, wherein the at least one nozzle comprises a plurality of nozzles following each other in the conveying direction of the fiber stream and that interrupt the sliding surface.

C³ 8. (Amended) A device for creating a spread-out stream of tobacco fibers, the device receiving tobacco from an inlet portion and supplying tobacco to an outlet portion, comprising:

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C a concave-curved guide track along with the fiber stream of tobacco fibers are conveyed, the guide track having a sliding surface extending from the inlet portion to the outlet portion, the sliding surface being formed with a generatrix based on a uniform curve; and

at least one air nozzle having an air flow opening interrupting the sliding surface so that air exiting the nozzle acts in a conveyance direction of the fiber stream for spreading out the tobacco fibers, wherein the nozzle has a downstream wall, in relation to the conveyance direction of the fiber stream, which makes a transition into the concave-curve guide track in a steady convex curvature such that air exiting the nozzle achieves the Coanda effect.

11. (New) A device for creating a spread-out stream of tobacco fibers, comprising:

C4 a concave-curved guide track along which the fiber stream of tobacco fibers are conveyed, the guide track having a generatrix based on a uniform curve, a portion of the concave-curved guide track being formed by a convex sliding surface, the guide track having a width; and

at least one air nozzle having an air flow opening interrupting the guide track so that air exiting the nozzle acts in a conveyance direction of the fiber stream for spreading out the tobacco fibers, wherein the nozzle has a downstream wall, in relation to the conveyance direction of the fiber stream, which makes a transition into the concave sliding surface of the guide track in a steady convex curvature, the at least one nozzle terminating in the sliding surface and extending continuously over the width of the guide track.